Shortage of water

272. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has identified shortage of water as one of the most worrying problems in the time to come;

(b) if so, what would be the estimated demand of potable water in India during the next five years;

(c) whether there has been an increase in use of water during the last ten years and this demand will increase further during the next decade; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the requirements of people during the next decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has identified areas showing decline in ground water levels. However, no study has been undertaken by CGWA for estimation of shortage of ground water in the years to come.

(c) The population of the country is growing rapidly. As a result, the demand of water has also increased and the same will increase further during next decade.

(d) In order to augment the availability of water for various uses and their efficient use, schemes are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. To help the State Governments in their effort, technical and financial assistance is provided by the Ministry of Rural Development under Accelerated Rural Water Supply programme. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development, which envisages inter-linking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basin to water deficit basins.